

Hello we are...

Matt & Chaney



Graceful
adoptionsTM



Our Hopes and Dreams...

Our dream is to nurture our children to grow up to be loving and compassionate to others.

Our hearts have always been open to adoption. It has been impressed on our hearts that now is the time for us to adopt. In December 2015, I watched a video of women who were so thankful they were able to have abortions earlier in life because their lives are so much better now. It broke my heart. I knew the babies they aborted were children. I know there are pregnant women out there who are in difficult circumstances and do not want to abort the baby growing inside of them. I felt strongly convicted that we should adopt and open our family to receive one of these little children. I shared that conviction with Matt. He immediately answered "Ok, I think we should also." I was amazed. We usually never make quick decisions, so I didn't think he would be so quick to agree. God had been preparing him for this separately as well.

When Matt and I make decisions, we always take our children into consideration first. We are so blessed to have our current two children, McKayla (12) and Asher (8). Matt and I waited five years before adding children to our family. We wanted to give them the best start possible. We give them all we have and will do that for any child entrusted to us. Matt and I have been lovingly married for 18 years. We are able to offer a child financial security in a loving home. Matt continues to gain promotions because of his hard work and integrity. We have always saved for future purchases so we can live with little to no debt. I am a Home Organizer taking clients by appointment. This allows me to be available for the majority of childcare and family activities. I will be staying home with any child entrusted into our care as long as needed.

If you choose us, we want you to have peace of mind and know your child will be loved dearly. We hope you fully heal from this process and consider it one of the best decisions you have ever made. You are a strong role model of courage and selflessness for women thinking about ending a pregnancy. This life inside of you is a living, loving person who deserves the chance to chase after their dreams. This child will know they are loved by us and by you because of the loving decision you are making.

Sincerely,

Matt & Chaney


Graceful
adoptions™

We focus on what matters to make every adoption a beautiful experience.

515.225.6351 / 877.628.1415 GracefulAdoptions.com



Our values and beliefs as parents...



We believe we should love and care for others - We show this by talking nicely to a grumpy neighbor, taking the time to talk to our parents and grandparents weekly, and celebrating birthdays of our children. We believe one of the best ways to teach how to love is to be loved and model love in everyday life. Our children truly know we care about them because we tell them, we hug them, and we are available for them on the hard days.

We value being compassionate toward others - It is important to us because we know we could very easily be in the same situation as the other person is in. As a family, we purposefully participate in community service projects and want to give our children the opportunity to serve and show compassion to others in their time of need. A couple of our recent family service projects include serving dinner and cleaning at the Ronald McDonald House for families staying there and volunteering at a community sporting gym for disabled youth.



We believe each person is uniquely created by God - We believe this because in Psalm 58:3 it says, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." Each of our children have different talents and we try to encourage them. McKayla is gifted in piano so we encouraged her to take lessons. Asher is gifted in different areas. Our next child will arrive with his or her own unique gifts and personality.

Hard work is valued - Matt and I both grew up in families who taught us working at a job and at home are vital to family life. We both have worked to earn money and we both pitch in at home. Our kids have chores and earn money (sometimes from us) to purchase extra items. The kids have regular chores that are expected to contribute to the family. Some of the chores include cleaning out the dishwasher, taking out the trash, folding laundry and getting the mail. They also like to earn money by completing extra chores like cleaning bathrooms, vacuuming and mowing the yard.



Honor those in authority - We grew up with wonderful parents and grandparents. They led lives that we wanted to emulate. They worked hard and put family first. We know not everyone has this nurturing experience, so honoring those in authority is a challenging idea. This does not mean we bow to every idea or concept presented by a person in authority. For example, the kid's school has a dress code that includes girl's shorts being mid-thigh. It is not easy to find and monitor that length of shorts, but we do it because that is the rule put in place for the student's good, so our children must follow it. We also go visit our parents as often as possible, we call or facetime with them weekly, usually on Sunday evening. We have the kids participate in weekly conversations to teach them honoring those before us is important.



Laughter is the best medicine - We take our position as parents seriously. So we always try to add a little fun and humor. We laugh at ourselves and look for the lighter side of life. When McKayla is nervous about entering a new situation, I tell her to enter the room by tripping then laugh at herself. Then nothing will seem as bad as that! We both laugh and it lightens the mood. We are always looking for things that make us laugh. The kids and I love to hang out in the card aisle for a while. We laugh and share the cards with each other. Our family's favorite movie is Megamind. We quote lines from it all the time. We love to laugh and are always looking for funny movies to enjoy together.

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Our home...

Our home is in a quiet, safe neighborhood and has a nice mix of families and retired households. We chose it because it is conveniently located near the elementary school and city-wide bike trails. There are about ten boys in grades between 1st and 5th who ride bikes and scooters between houses. Over the years we have had fun play activities for the kids. The kids have enjoyed a play set with swings and slides, kittens and sprinklers. We currently have a trampoline with a safety net to keep them active. The yard has nice grass and trees for shade. It is great for tossing a football around.

Our home is cozy. When we moved into our current home, we painted the walls, put in new flooring, and remodeled the kitchen to white. We try to keep our home up-to-date, but it is not the focus of our lives. We want our home to be an investment to make family memories in.

Our friends and family know when we host a party it is all about the relationships. When family and friends come to our home, the parents either visit or join the kids for games. We have a ping-pong table in the basement that brings out the competitive side of adults and kids. Playing cards is also a favorite past time with many friends we have over to our home. We play rummy, euchre, or up and down the river. The kids like to join in for a few hands and then all head down to the basement for ping pong or outside for games.

We do a lot of home cooking. One meal that we especially enjoy is homemade meatballs. Matt and the kids enjoy making them in the winter. When the kids were toddlers they got the job of crunching up the crackers in a Ziploc bag, their responsibilities grow as they get older to cracking the eggs, measuring spices, and then on to rolling the meat into balls. I enjoy watching their proud beaming faces as they eat the food they made.

Our family is our life. I will stay home to do most of the care for this little one for as long as needed. Matt will join in when he arrives home from work. The kids are excited to feed and play with a little one too. Our child will come along to support his or her siblings at McKayla's volleyball games and Asher's football games. We will all be there to cheer this one on for their chosen activities when the time comes.

We are really looking forward to the joy a baby or toddler brings to a home. The belly laughs, for almost any reason, are infectious. Watching him or her reach each new milestones as they learn and grow will be such a delight. Feeding, changing, and meeting a baby's emotional needs is a large undertaking, but the reward of watching them smile at you or try to copy the words you say with their lips is amazing. We are also looking forward to watching McKayla and Asher cuddle and help with their little brother or sister. The joy and comradery of a larger family excites all of us. I can already picture us preparing for the evening meal with a high chair holding a smiling cooing child. One of us is cooking on the stove, another is entertaining the baby, and each of us are working together until the meal is ready for all of us to sit down and enjoy together.

The nursery is going to be cozy with a white crib and rocking chair. The walls are a calm grey with wooden slat blinds over the windows to keep the light out at nap time. A dresser will add a splash of color to the room, but I am waiting to see if we adopt a boy or a girl! I can't wait to spend time rocking our child in the nursery.



- Both non-smokers

Hobbies:

Adoptive Mother:

Organizing social events, digital scrapbooking, boating, spending time with family and friends

Adoptive Father:

Fishing, hunting, farming, boating, spending time with family and friends

Professions:

Adoptive Mother: Professional Organizer

Adoptive Father: Agribusiness Economist

Education Level:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelor's Degree

Adoptive Father: Master's Degree



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Our family...

Matt and I have now been together for more years of our life than apart! We met while attending a community college. A mutual friend just knew Matt should meet me and brought him into a clothing store where she was working. He called that night and asked if I would like to go on a date that Friday night. It was very romantic. He picked me up in the rain. He held an umbrella and opened doors for me. We ate my favorite pizza and went to the movies. After the movies, we went back to my apartment complex and sat outside at a picnic table and talked for a few hours. We had so much in common. It was very romantic. We knew after about a month that we wanted to get married.

We have been married for almost eighteen years. We dated for a year and were engaged for a year. He proposed the week before I started college. We drove out by a lake we both were fond of. He got down on one knee and asked me to marry him. He was shaking. I said yes and we were so excited, so we left to go tell everyone the news. We told our parents first, who said they actually were not surprised and very happy for us!

We have two children and would like to add to our family. McKayla is a responsible, driven, nurturing twelve-year-old. Her friends say she is a friend who will stand up for you. She likes challenges like winter running and achieving goals. Asher is an affectionate, funny nine-year-old who loses track of time. He likes diving into the details and learning about rocks and animals. He can't walk by a baby at the store without smiling and tapping my arm to point it out.



Our family likes to spend time together and each season creates great opportunities. In the summer, we like to go boating, fishing, and swimming together. We lived near a lake for several years and became very fond of “lake fun”. We now have a fishing boat and either rent a boat for tubing or go with friends. Matt particularly enjoys fishing. We all enjoy spending weekends at our friend’s lake cabin playing in the water and tubing. Matt and the kids love to bury each other in the sand. I enjoy capturing those moments in photos. We also like spontaneous fun like going to a drive-in movie and watching the movie from the back of the van. We like to go bicycling in the fall. It is handy that we live next to a bike trail. We carve pumpkins for Halloween. I think the kids enjoy the mess as much as watching them glow. We enjoy the snowy season by playing in the snow, then cozying around the fireplace or playing cards together. I pop popcorn in an old-fashioned popper. The kids think it is the best popcorn around!

Sunday after church is when we have extended lunch with friends or family and enjoy letting different family members select where we will eat that day. We also go on vacations as a family every year. We pick a different place based on the age of the children and our desires. We have been to Colorado to family camp, Florida to Disney World and Legoland, Washington DC, and Lake of the Ozarks. We also have been on mission trips in the Appalachian Mountains. This past year we went to Barbados to learn to surf. It was new for us, but we all fell in love with surfing. We loved snorkeling with sea turtles. We all enjoy the water whether it’s a lake or the ocean.

Our family of four is excited to add a brother or sister to the family. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends will be overjoyed as well! They are just as eager as we are to include another family member.



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